

SAWBRIDGECWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at the The Council Offices, 49-51 Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth at 7.30 pm on **Monday 29 October 2012.**

Those present

Cllr Jane Adams	Cllr Will Mortimer
Cllr Angela Alder	Cllr Tom Reeks
Cllr Derek Filler	Cllr Brian Rochester
Cllr Barry Hodges – The Mayor	Cllr Joyce Vincent
Cllr Peter Mitchell	Cllr Andrew Wincott

In attendance:

County Cllr Roger Beeching	PS David Cook & PC Russell Jones - Herts Police
3 members of the public	Eleanor Patmore – H&E Observer
R Bowran - Town Clerk	Jo Kenny – Admin Officer

Welcome by the Mayor, prayers were read by Cllr Alder. Members were asked to remember the Tafts family following the recent death of Josh.

12/96 WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLOR

The Mayor welcomed Cllr Jane Adams as a member of the council.

12/97 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Eric Buckmaster – business commitment and Cllr Pat Coysten - unwell.

12/98 PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs Monya Billing Commented that road works had been undertaken in Bonks Hill with no prior notice and caused chaos.

Clerk said the town council had not received notice either; there are some failings in communication from Highways as a result of the change to a new contractor for works.

Mr Nick Jones, Sawbridgeworth Group Scout Leader gave an update on the progress of the scout's new building project. The mayor presented the scouts with a cheque for £25,000 as the town council's contribution to the project. The opening ceremony for the new scout hut is planned for 12 January 2013.

12/99 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members.

12/100 MINUTES

Resolved: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 24 September 2012 (M05) [prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Filler]

12/101 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Received and noted: The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on:

- 24 September 2012 (P07)
- 08 October 2012 (P08)

- 12/102 FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE**
Received and noted: the minutes of the Finance and Policy Committee Meeting held on:
- 24 September 2012
- 12/103 AMENITIES COMMITTEE**
Received and noted: the minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on:
- 24 September 2012
- 12/104 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**
Resolved: To appoint Cllr Jane Adams to be a member of the Amenities Committee [*prop Cllr Alder; secd Cllr Filler*]
- 12/105 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS**
 To receive Mayor's appointments and communications
- Visits made:
- Bry-sur-Marne, town twinning visit. Invitation to attend twinning meeting with Germany at Bry on 08 May 2013
 - Buntingford Civic Service 28 Oct.
- Future events:
- Dedication of SMH plaques and airfield visit 10 Nov
 - Remembrance Day Service Gt St Marys 11 Nov
 - Hailey centre Christmas Fayre 17 Nov
 - Scouts mail service opens 21 Nov
 - Christmas Lights and Bell St street Fayre 30 Nov
 - Sawbridgeworth Civic Dinner 11 May 2013
- 12/106 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**
 To receive representatives reports from:
- **County Councillor Roger Beeching** reported:
 - New constituency boundaries to take account of the expanding population.
 - Street lighting changes not in synchronisation with clock changes
 - The extent of funding for adult social care
 - The use of his locality budget
 - **District Councillor Eric Buckmaster** was not present:
 - **District Councillor Will Mortimer** reported:
 - Call for sites at Epping Forest DC
 - New EHDC director of finance starting on 20 November
 - **Hertfordshire Police PS David Cook** introduced **PC Russell Jones** and reported:
 - Significant commitment to Halloween and Remembrance Sunday
 - Operation Advent to tackle general criminality in the area
 - Violent and public disorder down significantly
 - Increase in vehicle theft

- **Footpaths Officer Brian Rochester** reported:
 - Some damage at the Boardwalk and repairs made
 - Police would support camera surveillance.
- **Other reports:**
 - Cllr Mitchell reported issues at the Duckling Centre; increase in incidence of domestic violence, increase in diversity; lack of transport from the Hadhams

12/107 CIVIC CENTRE

Work continues. Works are running about three weeks behind programme. Move date now looks to be in January 2013. New lease signed with Forebury Estates to allow continuing occupation of 49 Bell Street.

12/108 BELL STREET CAR PARK

The new scheme has been widely praised by retailers and members of the public. The shortfall in revenue is within the budget parameters set by council. There is evidence from the increased volume of pay and display ticket issued that the car park is being used more.

12/109 FARMERS MARKET

The re-launch of the Farmers Market is set for 03 November. Several new traders and attractions are in hand.

12/110 CLERK'S REPORT

- **Accommodation Committee** Progress continues. Building is watertight, electricians have completed first fix, and floor screed is down. Plasterers are due this week. However we are still three weeks behind schedule. Meeting arranged with Herts Police surveyor to establish a lease for their occupation.
- **Councillor Training** Several members are scheduled to attend training at East Herts District Council in the requirements of the new code of conduct.
- **Budget 2013/14** The budget process is just about to begin. Any members with projects they want to be included should contact either the Chairman of F&P, Cllr Buckmaster, or the Clerk to make their wishes known.
- **Allotment Security** Gates and locks have been installed at Southbrook and Bullfields. They have been widely welcomed by tenants although they have not stopped limited incidents of trespass and vandalism. Sign boards have been erected at each site advising that the gardens are private, and giving an emergency contact number.
- **Community Transport** Herts CC continues to offer their support for Sawbobus. The next stage of development in East Herts will come from collaboration between CVS, BSTC, STC and HCC. This is likely to take the form of a coordinated approach with services being delivered locally and administered by the CVS.
- **Christmas Lights** The working party met on 20 September and again more recently. Plans are well advanced and the proposal to have stalls down Bell Street had met with enthusiasm – there are

currently already 10 stalls booked by charities. The first fix of the lights are in place.

12/111 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

- None received

12/112 FINANCIAL REPORT

Noted: The current Financial Report

12/113 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Noted and approved: Accounts for payment

Meeting was closed at 20:30

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 26 November 2012 in the Council Offices at 49/51 Bell Street Sawbridgeworth